

HM-692

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached new figure illustrates the flow deflection element designed as a flat narrow plate whose longitudinal axis is perpendicular to the direction of conveyance of the metal strand and perpendicular to the direction normal to the surface of the metal strand, as recited in the claims. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this drawing since the orientation of the deflection element was recited in the application as originally filed.

Attachment: New Sheet

REMARKS

The office action of April 30, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 11-13 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over JP 11-193451.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 11-193451.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 11-193451 in view of JP 07-76759.

Claims 6, 8, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 11-193451 in view of the patent to Huxley.

Claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

HM-692

over JP 11-193451 in view of JP 55-104466.

Claims 3, 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 11-193451 in view of the patent to Yamanaka et al.

Finally, it is noted that claims 5 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In connection with the Examiner's objection to the drawings, applicant has added a new figure which shows a flat narrow plate whose longitudinal axis is perpendicular to the direction of conveyance of the metal strand and perpendicular to the direction normal to the surface of the metal strand, as recited in the claims. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this drawing since the orientation of the deflection element was recited in the application as originally filed.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant

has amended claims 1, 3 and 6.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner. Also, claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 3 to correct the antecedent problems in claim 9.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, with the amendments to claim 6 it is respectfully submitted that the objection to claims 11-13 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to JP 11193451, this reference teaches a device for hot dip coating a

metal strip. The reference does not disclose a construction having a flow deflection element arranged in the guide channel, as recited in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the above-discussed reference are overcome and should be withdrawn.

The remaining references, which were cited in various combinations with JP 11193451, have also been considered. None of these references, nor the various combinations made by the Examiner, teach a device for hot dip coating a metal strand, wherein at least one flow deflection element is arranged in the guide channel for the metal strand, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the various rejections of claims 3, 4, 6-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

HM-692

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 30, 2007.

By:



Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: August 30, 2007